

Mr. Parambi Lonappen (*Commissioner of Excise*): The National War Front?

Mr. V. J. Mathai (*Planters*): Not the National War Front; these workers.

CENTRAL JAIL—PARTICULARS OF FRUIT TREES AND TIMBER

88. Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (*Vadakkancheri*): Will Government be pleased to state.—

(a) is there any register kept in the Jail that will show the number of timber trees and fruit trees in the Central Jail compound;

(b) has any fruit tree been cut from the Central Jail compound since the date of Government order prohibiting such cutting; if so, was the cutting covered by any sanction, and what was done with the tree cut;

(c) was not the trunk of a jack tree cut from the Central Jail compound sawn in the Jail compound in Mithunam 1118, if so, what was done with the sawn pieces?

Rama Varmha Tampuran (*Secretary to Government*): (a) No.

(b) No.

(c) A fallen jackwood tree was removed from the Jail compound to the Jail proper and sawn and the timber kept there.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (*Vadakkancheri*): May I know, Sir, whether the Government are aware of the existence of very many standing trees in the extensive area of 175 acres in the Jail premises.

Rama Varmha Tampuran (*Secretary to Government*): There are some trees there.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (*Vadakkancheri*): Has the Government any idea of the number. It is Government property.

Rama Varmha Tampuran (*Secretary to Government*): We have not kept any accounts.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (*Vadakkancheri*): That may be done.

Mr. A. B. Salem (*Mattancheri*): Who eats all these fruits?

Rama Varmha Tampuran (*Secretary to Government*): It is all auctioned. Not only here, but in all Government compounds, the practice is and the order is, that they should be auctioned and credited to departmental receipts.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon (*Cranganur*): May I know whether the Government is aware that a number of timber trees fell down during the cyclone of 1116?

Rama Varmha Tampuran (*Secretary to Government*): A few trees would naturally have fallen down during the cyclone days. I have no information.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon (*Cranganur*): I do not want you to speculate. I want to know whether the Government is aware. That is the question.

Rama Varmha Tampuran (*Secretary to Government*): Some trees might have fallen. How many trees, I have no information. In every compound in Trichur, some trees have fallen. Jail compound cannot be an exception to that.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon (*Cranganur*): Sir, this seems to be a supplementary answer. But I am putting a supplementary question. May I know what was done with the trees that might have fallen down?

Rama Varmha Tampuran (*Secretary to Government*): The timber was cut and sawn and kept for use in executing work orders.

Mr. V. J. Mathai (*Planters*): Will the Government be pleased to enquire whether any officer has appropriated any portion of the trees that have fallen?

Rama Varmha Tampuran (*Secretary to Government*): We have made enquiries, and nothing has been found so far. We have no objection to pursue the enquiries still further.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu (*Kunnamkulam*): Will the Government be pleased to have a list of the number of trees in all the Government offices and other compounds?

Rama Varmha Tampuran (*Secretary to Government*): It is desirable and orders will be issued.

Mr. A. B. Salem (*Mattancheri*): Have they not got such lists in every department now?

Rama Varmha Tampuran (*Secretary to Government*): No.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (*Vadakkancheri*): Can I have from the Government a rough idea of the number of trees that this extensive area in the jail contains.

Rama Varmha Tampuran (*Secretary to Government*): I have no information.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu (*Kunnamkulam*): The measurement of trees such as jack-fruit and mango trees may also be noted in the register.

Rama Varmha Tampuran (*Secretary to Government*): All necessary details will be entered.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (Vadakkancheri): With regard to the answer to (b) and (c) of the question, may I know when it fell? Is it after the question went to the House?

Rama Varmha Tampuran (Secretary to Government): We have no information.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (Vadakkancheri): Is there anything in the Jail records. I have been responsible for making a very serious allegation against the Jail. I would like to know whether there is anything in the Jail records or the records of the Government to show the number of fallen trees in the Jail.

Rama Varmha Tampuran (Secretary to Government): We should make detailed enquiries. Then only all these details could be known. We cannot get information simply by asking them for reports on answers to Legislative Council questions. We have to go there and look into the registers and make enquiries and go into further details before saying yes or no.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (Vadakkancheri): In the light of these questions 88, 89 and 90, relating to the same subject, and having a bearing upon the very serious allegations with full responsibility I made in this House and the unpleasantness that will be created by pursuing these questions with supplementary questions, may I know from the Government whether in the light of the allegations, they will be pleased to appoint a committee to enquire into these allegations, and if they find that my allegations are true, take necessary action, and if they find my allegations are untrue, deal with me. That is the thing I want to say.

Mr. President: I have already given instructions to the Secretary to Government to visit the Jail and make a full searching enquiry and send a report (*Hear, hear*).

Mr. V. J. Mathai (Planters): No better person can be selected.

Mr. A. B. Salem (Mattancheri): May I know whether the fruits have not been sold and money realised, and whether any register exists to show the receipts from this sale?

Rama Varmha Tampuran (Secretary to Government): We can find this out from the cash book as to when the money was received. That is easy to find out.

CONVICTS WORKING IN THE SUPERINTENDENT'S QUARTERS

89. Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (Vadakkancheri): Will Government be pleased to state.—

(a) whether more than the allowed number of convicts had gone to the Superintendent's quarters in any of the months of Meenam, Medam, Edavam and Mithunam 1118;

(b) were convicts No. 296 and another, both good carpenters, sent for work at the Superintendents quarters in the above months?

Rama Varmha Tampuran (Secretary to Government): (a) No.

(b) Yes. Carpenters were sent to the officers' quarters including the Superintendent's quarters as also to the Warders' Lines for attending to the P.C.R. works.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (Vadakkancheri): May I know what exactly is meant by "officers' quarters" in the jail precincts? Which are these officers?

Rama Varmha Tampuran (Secretary to Government): There are the Jailor, Deputy Jailor and the warders. They have got official quarters there.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (Vadakkancheri): An answer is given that the carpenters were sent to the quarters for attending to P. C. R. works. Is this the information supplied from the Jail.

Rama Varmha Tampuran (Secretary to Government): That is the information given by the Department.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (Vadakkancheri): I may be permitted to club question 90 also to this, because they are allied, and ask supplementary questions.

Mr. President: Yes, both questions may be answered.

FURNITURE—SUPERINTENDENT'S QUARTERS IN CENTRAL JAIL

90. Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (Vadakkancheri): Will Government be pleased to state.—

(a) are the Superintendent's quarters in the Central Jail furnished free with any furniture; if so, what are the items;

(b) is there not in the Superintendent's quarters now furniture worked with Jail timber and by convict carpenters?

Rama Varmha Tampuran (Secretary to Government):

(a) Not furnished.

(b) Yes. One ordinary dining table and 2 benches have been supplied from the carpentry section in the Central Jail and the cost thereof paid by the Superintendent himself.